

# **THE RIGHT TO PARTY..**

**REPRINT JULY 1994 FREE**

**URGENT !!  
NEW LAWS  
ARE COMING  
THIS WAY  
WATCH  
OUT!!**

**AND FESTIVAL...**

**AND TRAVEL...**

**AND SQUAT...**

**AND HUNT SAB...**

**AND ASSEMBLE...**

**AND PROTEST...**

**AND...**



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# INTRO..

If this is your first time, welcome to The Right To Party. This issue is a reprint of Issue 4. April 1994. There is such a large demand for information about the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill. This is probably due to the governments almost clandestine approach to passing this Bill.

The Criminal Justice Bill is still on the cards for October, and is, despite a savaging in the House of Lords, still a frighteningly vicious piece of paranoic legislation. The postcard campaign we initiated seems to be working, as do the demonstrations. It is, however, imperative that we all keep up the pressure, and continue to inform the general public how dangerous this Bill is for all of us. Keep the faith.

*"Dont let the bastards grind us down"*

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL 1994

|                                        |                 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| - trespassing on land                  | (section 45/1)  |
| - failing to leave land                | (section 45/3)  |
| - making preparations to hold a "rave" | (section 47/2a) |
| - waiting for a gathering/"rave"       | (section 47/2b) |
| - attending a gathering /'rave'        | (section 47/2c) |
| - powers to stop at a road block       | (section 49/1)  |
| - control of traffic within 5 miles    | (section 49/2)  |
| - squatting                            | (section 57)    |
| - hunt saboteuring                     | (section 52)    |

and face three months imprisonment, a large fine, or both!! The breadth and viciousness of this legislation is breathtaking - it is a serious attempt to criminalise any remotely marginal activity in the name of law. The bill even attempts to define "raves" as a gathering "of 100 or more persons (whether or not trespassers) at which amplified music is played during the night" (sect47/1) which might cause "distress to the inhabitants of the locality".

Music is expressly defined so as to include that "wholly or predominantly characterised by the emission of a succession of repetitive beats".



# TRESPASS

Trespass is being turned into a crime against the State, undermining the rights of travellers, party people, squatters and outlawing peaceful protest. Soon you could go to prison for damaging a blade of grass.

Nobody knows how many people are living semi-legally on someone else's property, but they probably number over 100,000. They include gypsies in trailer caravans, "new age travellers" in busses, lorries or bender tents, squatters in some of the million or so empty

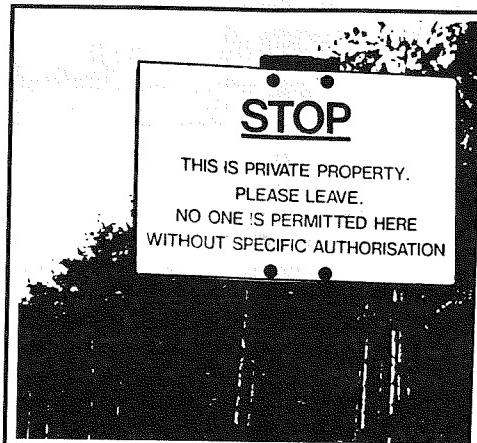
or derelict buildings throughout the country and street-dwellers sleeping in shop fronts and cardboard boxes.

They are an embarrassment to a government trying to portray a different picture. The government's response has been a campaign, the tone of which was set in 1986 by Douglas Hurd, the then Home Secretary, when he referred to New-age travellers as "a band of medieval brigands who have no respect for the law or the rights of others". In 1988, Thatcher chimed in that "I am only pleased to make life as difficult as possible for these hippy convoys".

This campaign has culminated in the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill which is currently in the committee stage in the Commons, and looks like being law before the summer. Amongst its 117 clauses are some specifically targeted at gypsies, travellers, parties and squatters. Others are designed to restrict people's rights

to demonstrate. All of them focus on protection of property and involve criminalisation of trespass.

For over 800 years, trespass has been a civil offence in Britain. It is recognised as a dispute between individuals rather than a crime



against society. Thus it has never been a crime to walk on other peoples land nor even to enter their house. It does remain a crime to break and enter, to commit a breach of the peace or to commit damage to their property. A road protester was arrested recently for "damage to a piece of string".

Complicated common law relating to trespass (as a non-crime) has lasted since pre-medieval times with good reason. Thus far, the law takes into account two fundamental facts. The first is that everybody has to be somewhere, they occupy physical space - and it is in everyone's best interest that

"somewhere" is not in prison!! The second is that everywhere is someone's property. More than half of all private land in Britain is owned by 1 per cent of the population, and three quarters by about 5 per cent. So-called public land is owned by bodies such as county

councils, District councils, highway authorities, the Forestry Commission and the Crown, all of whom act as owners against trespassers. Recognition of certain spots as stopping places for travellers was omitted from the 1965 Commons Registration Act. Thousands of people now have nowhere to go.

The proposed new laws go a long way towards making the simple act of being on someone else's

property an imprisonable crime. Amongst the Bill's provisions are:

\* Squatters who fail to leave a building within 24 hours of application to the courts by the owner will be committing a criminal offence.

\* Public assemblies of trespassers who fail to comply with a police request to leave will be committing a criminal offence.

\* Police will have the power to order trespassers to leave "if they seek to disrupt or prevent a lawful activity by the owner or his guests". Lying in front of a bulldozer will become a criminal offence.

\* The police will have powers to move from private land any gath-

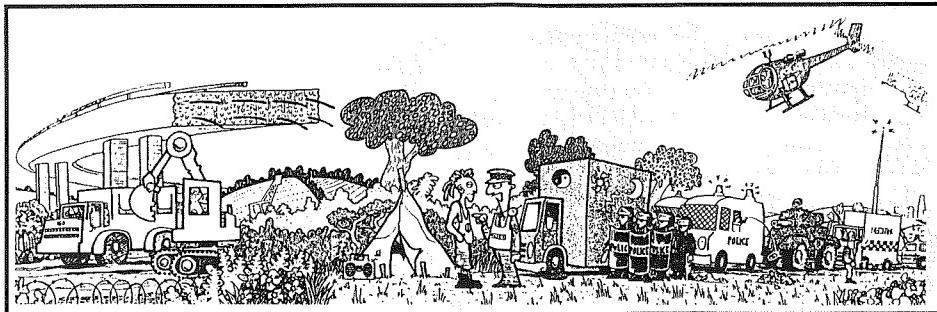
ering of more than six vehicles, to impound the vehicle (even if they are someone's home) and to demand cash for their release. The establishment of vehicle pounds is reckoned by the government to cost about £500,000. This is expected to be financed out of a vehicle reclamation fee!

\*Local authorities will be given

imprisonable criminals. It also reinforces to rights of owner to manage their properties in ways that may not be in the public interest (constructing roads, forestry issues etc).

Until now, if a section of the community becomes enraged by an issue, and all means of objection in

the participants in these actions could have been convicted as criminals and imprisoned. So, too, could all those who took part in the recent anti-motorway demonstrations at Twyford Down and the M11. Both of these are forcing the Government to reconsider its road building policy.



powers to evict anyone living or camping on any land which is not their own. Failure to comply or re-entry on the land within three months would be a criminal offence.

\*The duty of councils to provide sites for travellers, which has existed since 1968, will be removed and grants for these sites will no longer be available.

\*Criminal damage to property is now to include "damage to the land itself", a provision suggesting that those who cannot be proved to have damaged a "piece of string" may be accused of damaging blades of grass..

This legislation will turn those who have nowhere else to go into

courts and enquiries fail to give satisfaction, the public has had an ultimate extra-legal resource - the right of public, peaceful protest upon the site. This right should not be under-estimated. History shows us that the Commons preservation Society in 1866 ripped down enclosers' fences and thereby saved Berkhamstead Common, Epping Forest, the New Forest and many other landscapes we now take for granted. These campaigns led to the formation of the National Trust. Likewise the Ramblers Association owes its reputation, above all, to the famous mass trespass on the moors of Kinder Scout in 1932.

Under the proposed legislation,

The government's attack on "public order" has so far elicited an uncoordinated response from organisations representing those most affected. The most vigorous lobbying against the criminal trespass measures has come from a few groups representing travellers, ranging from Save the Children Fund to small regional groups. Liberty, the civil rights organisation, has been a consistent voice against the bill. Squatters' groups have tried to muster opposition, but have been hampered by lack of funds. The Green Party is divided over the issue and environmental groups have hardly breathed a word.

**The proposed measures will affect a broad spectrum of British society, from Friends of the Earth to the Caravan Club, the Ramblers Association to Hunt saboteurs, from Shelter to the M11 squatters. Such groups would, we contend, be well advised to forget their political differences or reservations and unite in a broad front to combat the legislation. If they don't, we may (will) live to regret it.**  
**Whilst we have little chance of preventing this becoming law, we must organise to defend ourselves in the future.**

**UNLICENCED  
FUN WILL  
BECOME  
ILLEGAL.  
ACT UP!**

# "WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW"

We can only speculate about the final shape of the coming new laws. Until this date, the advice contained in the 'rights on arrest advice' (see later) still stands.

You will probably have already noticed that when trying to get to a free party or festival (remember them??), the police frequently try to prevent you going on to site with the threat of arrest, telling you the event has been cancelled, intimidating you by searching for drugs etc etc.

## What the police can do

1. They can stop people trespassing on land that is covered by injunctions.

2. They can take action that is necessary to prevent a breach of the peace, and arrest (for obstruction) anybody who gets in their way while they do so.
3. They can order people to leave squatted land in certain situations (Public Order Act 1986, section 39 - see below) but only if and after the owner has asked the occupiers to leave and they have failed to do so.

## What the police can't do

1. They can't turn a whole county into a "no go" area. Al-

2. They can't stop people travelling freely along the public highways, either in vehicle or on foot, nor from walking along public footpaths. You don't have to have a "good" reason, or any kind of reason, for doing this, and if you do have one you don't have to tell them what it is.
3. They can't prevent land from being occupied unless there is:
  - (a) an injunction is in force; or
  - (b) a risk of a breach of the peace (if for example landowners are present who might object); or
  - (c) a criminal offence being committed (such as criminal damage to a gate or fence).



## **What they can probably get away with**

1. They can offer landowners "advice"!! (In fact they have the cheek to say they are "obliged" to do this). In reality they are doing their level best to ensure that no site is made available by telling landowners that it is police policy to discourage such events. How much pressure they are prepared to use is something we will probably never know.

2. They can "enforce the law" in a discriminatory way, as people have discovery by being arrested for such "offences" as having dirty rear lights on their vehicle, already know!

What the police do in practice depends as much on politics and public relations as it does on "the law". Police behaviour will probably be better in the presence of independent "respectable" witnesses and the press.

If people present have cameras with them, photograph arrests if at all possible, as they are frequently very useful in subsequent court cases (such as different arresting officers etc..)

**Of course, any behaviour which can possibly be interpreted as violent or aggressive will give them a perfect excuse to do whatever they like.**

## **Public Order Act, Section 39**

This section applies only to people who "have entered land as

trespassers", so it's not relevant if you were invited on, whatever happens later.

1. You have "the common purpose of residing there for any period".

On the other hand it does apply if you entered without permission, even if the owner later said you could stay.

### **It does not apply to highways, including laybys.**

An order to leave can be given provided the most senior in rank of the police officers present "reasonably believes" that:

2. Reasonable steps have been taken by the legal occupier to ask you to leave. This means that a specific request to leave by a certain time must have passed. It is not necessary for the occupier to have asked the police to take action. On the other hand, if the occupier is prepared to say that you have not been asked to leave then you will be safe, even if no permission to stay has been given.



### 3. Either:

- (a) You have brought twelve or more vehicles on to the land. Who the vehicles belong to is irrelevant. If two or more pieces of land in different ownership are occupied, you should be entitled to count vehicles separately on each of them. Or
- (b) Any of the people in occupation "caused damage to property on the land". Damage to the land itself (for instance by lighting fires) is not covered. Or
- (c) Any of the people in occupation have "used threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour towards the occupier, a member of his family or an employee or agent of his". One person doing this is sufficient.

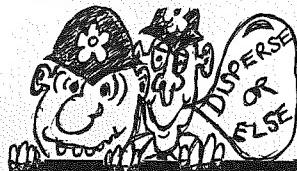
Nobody can be arrested under section 39 unless they have failed to leave within "a reasonable time" after the police order is given.

### Sections 12 and 14

Whenever there is an "assembly" (at least 20 people), or a "procession" in a public place, the senior police officer present has the power to impose "conditions" if he reasonably believes that it "may result in serious public disorder, serious damage to property or serious disruption to the life of the community". Conditions on an assembly can define where it is allowed to take place and limit both the time it lasts and the number of people present. The power to put conditions on a procession is more vague, but includes the power to regulate its route. Conditions can be imposed in advance, but in this case it must be done by the Chief Constable and in writing.

### Injunctions

Legal consequences of an injunction are now much wider than they used to be. Anybody who knows about it may be affected, whether they are named in it or not. Keep away from land covered by injunctions whenever you can. Roads are not covered in such orders.



### Points to remember

The basic police strategy when facing a large number of people is always "dispersal".

**It is best if can, to keep together.**

Work out in advance what to do if you meet police opposition to whatever you are attempting. Is it worth getting arrested for? You usually (though not always) have the alternative of withdrawing to regroup and consider your tactics.

The police will always know what you have to do to get arrested but they will not always tell you this. So ask. If they say "you can't come through here", then ask "Will you arrest me if I do?" Often the answer will be "No"!!

**It is usually not a good idea to answer police questions.  
SAY NOTHING.**

If you are arrested with no legal justification, there is nothing you can do about it at the time except

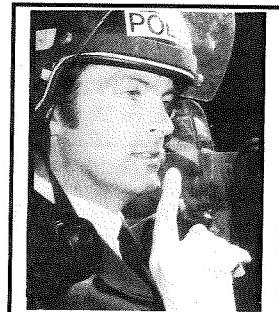
protest politely and go quietly. If possible, ensure that someone present knows your name so that enquiries can be made about you. Ask the reason for your arrest and remember the answer - it may come in useful in court. You have a right to have someone informed of your arrest.

If you don't think you're being treated properly in the police station, ask for a copy of the "Code of Conduct on Detention", which specifies what you are entitled to. Ask for a pencil and paper and make notes on the circumstances of your arrest for use in court (just as the police will use their notebooks). You must be released or charged within 24 hours unless suspected of a "serious" offence.

Don't take legal advice from police officers (even friendly ones!). You are entitled to the services of a duty solicitor, so if you want a lawyer, ask.

You do not have to use this lawyer when your case comes to court. Release will recommend lawyers in your home region if asked.

**RELEASE  
24 HOUR  
EMERGENCY  
NUMBER:  
071-603-8654**



# RIGHTS ON ARREST ADVICE

In practice you have few enforceable rights against the police: even evidence illegally obtained by them can be used against you in court.

## REMEMBER:

1. Don't get drawn into conversations with the police. Apparently innocent remarks can be used against you. You do not have to say or write anything, or sign any statement. You have the right to refuse to answer all police questions. Most people are better off remaining silent when being questioned.

If the police suspect you have committed any offence, you can be arrested if you refuse to give your name and address, or if they aren't satisfied with the address you have given.

2. If in doubt, do and say nothing until you have contacted your solicitor, Release, or the Duty Solicitor.

3. If anything you ask for is refused, ask why and remember the reason given.

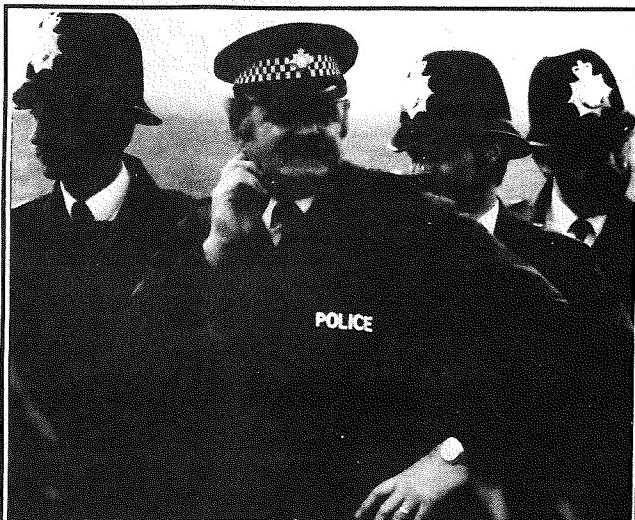
4. As soon as possible make full notes of what has happened and give them to your solicitor. These can be used as evidence in court. If you have been injured go and see a doctor as soon as possible, giving a full explanation of your injuries.

## ON THE STREET - IF YOU ARE STOPPED:

1. Check police identity; ask

to see their warrant card, and remember the details. If they are uniformed, remember their num-

bers. police station for a more thorough search without formally arresting you. They should show evidence



bers.

2. If you are stopped and searched in the street, ask why. The police can stop you in any public place if they suspect that you are in possession of 'prohibited articles' such as offensive weapons, or stolen goods.

On the street, the police can only search outer clothing such as coats, gloves etc. If they suspect that you are in possession of illegal drugs, they can take you to a

police station for a more thorough search without formally arresting you. They should show evidence

## IF YOU ARE TAKEN TO A POLICE STATION:

1. The custody Officer should give you a notice setting out your rights.

- You have the right to have someone informed of your arrest.
- You have the right to consult your lawyer or a Duty Solicitor.



tor scheme is free.

c. You have the right to consult the PACE (police and criminal evidence act) codes of practice.

Access to legal help and informing someone of your arrest can be delayed if you are suspected of a 'serious offence'.

**Most important of all, you have the right to remain silent.**

2. Ask if you have been arrested, and if so, why. Ask to see the custody officer as soon as you arrive at the police station. Make sure that the starting time of your detention is correctly recorded at the



top of the police custody record, together with a record about whether you need a solicitor or relative informed. **Make sure you know why you are being held. The nature of the charges determines your entitlement to rights in the police station.**

3. Ask the custody officer to phone your solicitor, the Duty Solicitor, or Release. Insist that a friend or relative is informed of your arrest. You have the right to have someone informed without delay unless you are being detained in connection with a 'serious arrestable offence' (PACE Act section 56). If this is the case, police can delay access to solicitors and relatives in specific circumstances. If they do refuse access, ask why. Insist the reason is recorded on your custody sheet. Even if the police are confident that there are grounds for refusing access to a solicitor, they have to allow access before 36 hours has expired.

4. Ask to be charged or released. Unless you are suspected of a 'serious offence', you must be released or charged with 24 hours of detention, and you have the right to consult a solicitor at any time. Make sure that your request to see a solicitor and the time of the request is recorded by the custody officer.

Whatever the police say, NEVER sign the custody sheet saying you don't want to see a solicitor. Insist on seeing one. If you are held in connection with a 'serious offence' you can be held for up to 36 hours without access to a solicitor, without being charged, if certain conditions are satisfied. For guidance, ask the police for their codes of conduct on detention. You have the right to see them. After 36 hours, you have the right to see a solicitor. A magistrate may order your continued detention in the police station for up to 96 hours, with a series of reviews. If after 96 hours, you have still not

been charged, you have the right to be released.

5. In order to get bail (i.e. released from the police station before going to court) you will probably have to satisfy the police that you have a fixed address. **REMEMBER - don't admit anything to the police until you have talked to a solicitor. You have the right to remain silent.**

#### **IF YOUR HOME OR WORKPLACE IS TO BE SEARCHED:**

Police do not need a warrant or your permission to enter your home in order to arrest someone, but in theory they should name the person sought. Searches can sometimes be conducted without a warrant. In all cases you should ask the reason for the search. You are entitled to see a copy of the search warrant. **Police should supply you with information about their powers to search premises. A record of the search must be kept by the police.**

# CONTACTS

|                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| ADVISORY SERVICE FOR<br>SQUATTERS<br>2 ST PAULS ROAD<br>ISLINGTON<br>LONDON N1                         | NO M11 LINK ROAD CAM-<br>PAIGN<br>PO BOX 956<br>LEYTONSTONE DELIVERY<br>OFFICE<br>6 JOSEPH RAY ROAD<br>LONDON E11 1AA         | STONEHENGE CAMPAIGN<br>C/O 99 TORRIANO AVENUE<br>LONDON NW5<br>GREEN ANARCHIST<br>19 MAGDALEN ROAD<br>OXFORD OX4 1RP | HACKNEY HOMELESS<br>PEOPLES FESTIVAL<br>CHRIS MC TOFU!<br>223A STOKE NEWINGTON<br>CHURCH STREET<br>STOKE NEWINGTON<br>LONDON N16 9ET |
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WILTSHIRE

NOTTS MOTORCYCLE  
ACTION GROUP  
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NETWORK  
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HOCKLEY  
BIRMINGHAM B8

SKOOL BUS  
c/o 206 LAWFORD ROAD  
RUGBY CV21 2HS

SUBCULTURE ALTERNATIVE  
FREEDOM FOUNDATION  
6-8 BURNLEY LODGE  
ROAD  
LEEDS LS6 1QP

TRAVELLERS AID TRUST  
41 LITTLEDOWN VIEW  
GREAT DURNFORD  
SALISBURY  
WILTSHIRE

VEGAN BIKE ASSOCIATION  
48 HAWKINS HALL LANE  
DATCHWORTH  
KNEBWORTH  
HERTS SG3 6TE

VEGAN SOCIETY  
7 BATTLE ROAD  
ST LEONARDS ON SEA  
E SUSSEX TN37 7AA

COUNTER INFORMATION  
PIGEON HOLE CL  
c/o 11 FORTH STREET  
EDINBURGH EH1

HOBLINK  
BOX1  
13 MERRIVALE ROAD  
STAFFORD ST17 9EB

HOMELESS OCCUPIERS  
PROJECT  
MARK  
612 OLD KENT ROAD  
LONDON SE15

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM  
MOVEMENT  
PO BOX 187

CHESTERFIELD S40 2DU

DICE NEWS  
BM 2002  
LONDON WC1N 3XX

FASLANE PEACE CAMP  
SHANDON  
HELENSBURGH  
SCOTLAND

GREEN FEDERATION  
c/o THE GREENHOUSE  
1 TREVELYAN TERRACE  
BANGOR  
GWYNEDD LL57 1AX

**Campaign against the  
Criminal Justice Bill  
(Nottingham Group)**  
c/o 180-182 Mansfield Road  
Nottingham

ABERDEEN FIN

36 BUCCHAN ROAD  
TORY  
ABERDEEN AB1 3SW

EFFIN  
c/o YORK  
THE COFFEE BAR  
GRASSROOTS  
58 CHARLES STREET  
CARDIFF CF1

GUILDFIN  
PO BOX 217  
GUILDFORD  
SURREY

ISIS BRUM FIN  
c/o 29 SILVERTON CRESCENT  
MOSELEY  
BIRMINGHAM B13 9ND

LONDON FIN  
c/o 99 TORRIANO AVENUE  
LONDON NW5 2RX

OPEN EYE MAGAZINE  
PO BOX 3069  
LONDON SW9 8LU

OUTLOOK  
87 KIRKSTALL ROAD  
LONDON SW2 411E

RAINBOW CIRCLE CAMPS  
SAMPSON COTTAGE  
SEVEN LEAZE LANE  
EDGE  
STROUD  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL6 6NL

STONE 2  
45 WESTWOOD HILL  
LONDON SE26 6NS

STREETWORM  
23 PRIORY ROAD  
COVENTRY CV8 3JW

SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL  
310 EDGWARE ROAD  
LONDON W2 1DY

TUAR CEATHA  
15 WALSH TERRACE  
WOODQUAY  
GALWAY  
EIRE

ADVANCE PARTY  
PO BOX 3290  
LONDON NW2 3UJ

# FINs

MANFIN  
DEPT 53  
1 NEWTON STREET  
PICCADILLY  
MANCHESTER M1 1HW

NEVER NEVER FIN  
8 CAMPBELL ROAD  
SOUTHSEA  
HANTS

NOTTFIN  
c/o THE RAINBOW CENTRE  
180 MANSFIELD ROAD  
NOTTINGHAM  
NOTTS

OXFIN  
21 CAVE STREET  
OXFORD OX4 1BA

SHEIFFIN  
c/o THE ECOLOGY COMPANY  
199 CROOKES VALLEY ROAD  
SHEFFIELD S10 1BA

# "Enuffs Enuff"

Over 50 reasonable people of all ages and from all walks of life took over a disused launderette and discussed the concern and frustration experienced by all those involved in free music festivals and the travelling circuit. They formed a union of underground collectives to be known as the 'ADVANCE PARTY'.

We value the existence of people willing to pool resources and put on free music and parties - where else can new music be heard and enjoyed?

- \* We are fed up by harassment and violence meted out to us by the police in their various guises as defenders of the peace and public order. We maintain that most of the time, the major offenders in 'breaching the peace' or starting public disorder are the police themselves. They spend enormous sums of public money keeping high-tech helicopters in the air, manning road blocks, police surveillance and undercover operations - wasting police time arresting sound systems and filling up cells with people who simply wanted to enjoy a party.
- \* We feel that we are badly represented in the media and that our side of the story is rarely, if at all heard.
- \* We want to defend the free party network and be allowed to organise our parties on sites away from residential areas, to continue to provide a place for people to dance, enjoy music and have refreshments in a peaceful and creative way.
- \* We will educate ourselves, those who join us and others in rights as a peaceful citizens in order to defend ourselves better at the point of contact with the police and the authorities.
- \* We intend to form links with other civil rights organisations as we recognise that many of the issues around the extension of police powers, changes to the Public Order Act, the Caravan Sites Act, the Law of Trespass and so on bring more valuable minority groups in conflict with the law. Peaceful, law abiding citizens who's way of life is outlawed are becoming criminals.
- \* We undertake to campaign against changes to existing laws, or the creation of new ones which seeks to restrict the freedom of people to get together and organise peaceful musical events.
- \* We will campaign to raise funds, publish a regular newsletter, propaganda, and petition against immoral laws and changes in the law.
- \* We want everyone's experiences to be collected and collated in order to show that we do not deserve to be treated as criminals and outcasts of society. We are struggling to create a better world for us and our children to live in. We will organise mass action against those who attempt to suppress us!
- \* We invite anybody who is interested, to join us in our fight for freedom of assembly and expression under international law! it is our right!

We need **EVERYBODY**'s support however great or small. This is how **YOU** can help us and yourselves:

1. Contact us on the address below with your experience
  - (A) Attending parties/raves/festivals
  - (B) organising parties/raves/festivals
  - (C) police tactics in stopping or abusing you

adverse or otherwise with authorities and the police  
(especially with respect to Acton Lane, Easter 1992,  
and Milton Keynes August 27-30 1993)

2. If you want to join the fight, contact us for our campaign pack (available Feb '94).

3. Give us your suggestions and contributions to our newsletter.

4. Please make a donation, promises need cash!

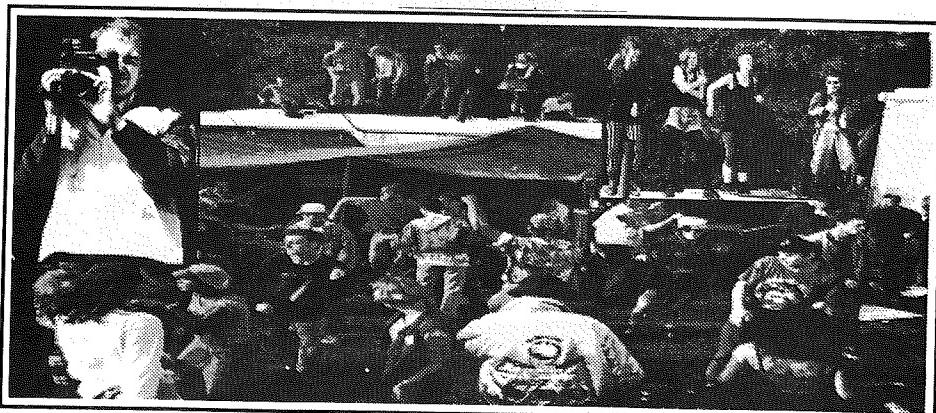
and remember we want to hear about  
the good times too....

### **LETTERS TO:**

**ADVANCE PARTY, P.O.  
BOX 3290  
LONDON NW2 3VJ**



**CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT  
(NOTTINGHAM GROUP)  
c/o 180 - 182 MANSFIELD RD  
NOTTINGHAM**



**FREEDOM TO PARTY, PARTY ON....**



# "QUOTES"

Comments from a:  
policeman  
judge  
lawyer  
civil rights advisor  
father  
prime minister

"The police had been accused of being Maggie's boot boys during the Miner's strike and the Wapping disputes.

We acquitted ourselves well in the circumstances and were assisted by the ready presence of democratically elected members of current, local police authorities.

But imagine if similar events were to occur under these proposals - how easy it would be for the police simply to be the tools of the Government"

JOHN SMITH - president (ACPO)

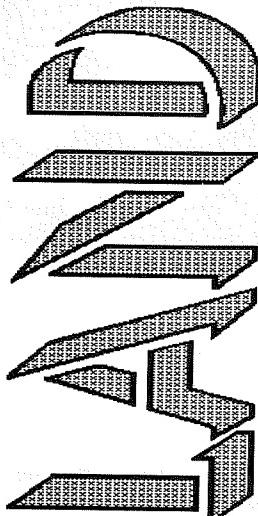
"As a 45-year old taxpayer, I object to this persecution. I am glad my son enjoys the camaraderie and happiness that is the predominant experience at a rave. I am proud that he is intelligently experienced in the use of drugs, although I am horrified that this makes him a criminal. By taking away the freedom of one group, the freedom of us all is lost. I need my right to silence, my son needs his right to dance in groups of more than 10 people.  
All of us need the right to opt out of conventional lifestyles"

FATHER

"The right to peaceful protest is a traditional and legitimate expression of a point of view. Peaceful protest is public, open and visible. It is designed to inform, persuade and cajole. It may be a nuisance; it may even be intended to be. It is often noisy and inconvenient. But it is a legitimate form of public expression, protected by the European Convention on Human Rights".

PETER THORNTON QC

EVIDENCE  
Videos  
DNA DATABASE  
UNSAFE  
CONVICTIONS  
**Trespass**  
"right of  
silence"



"Civil disobedience on grounds of conscience is an honourable tradition in this country and those who take part in it may in the end be vindicated by history."

LORD JUSTICE HOFFMAN

(commented during the Twyford Down appeal)

"A little noticed clause in the intelligence Services bill, allows information obtained from bugging and surveillance by MI5 and MI6 to be used in court.

This very important amendment demonstrates a crucial change in direction for these services. In future we will see more and more agents giving evidence from behind screens in ordinary criminal trials".

JOHN WADHAM - LIBERTY

"Fifty years from now, Britain will still be the country of long shadows on county grounds, warm beer, invincible green suburbs, dog lovers and pools fillers and as George Orwell once said, 'Old maids bicycling to Holy Communion through the morning mist'...Britain will remain unamendable in all essentials".

JOHN MAJOR

# "OPERATION SNAPSHOT"

## SOUTHERN INTELLIGENCE UNIT

LLEWELLYN HOUSE  
WILTSHIRE CONSTABULARY  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
LONDON ROAD  
DEVIZES SN10 2DN  
TELEPHONE: 0380 722341 X 555/556  
0380 722057 (Direct Line)  
FAX: 0380 734048

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO 9  
WEDNESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 1994

### AVON AND SOMERSET

Observations are requested for a Red Fiat Bed type Lorry with beaver tail and small hoist there on, a traveller type vehicle. It is believed to have been involved in a serious RTA on the A46 Swainswick near Bath, Avon on 6th February 1994.

Any vehicles fitting the above description, driver / owner to be obtained and forwarded to PC 3209 COURT, AI Unit, Weston Super Mare Traffic Unit, Avon and Somerset Constabulary

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

County Fayre, Hillersland, May 1993. Sid RAWLE and Richard HARDING, the owner of Blackthorn Farm, Hillersland, (the venue for the County Fayre) were ordered to pay £5,000 in fines and costs when found guilty of failing to take effective control of volume on the site in contravention of the licensing conditions. Fayre Events Limited, the company set up specifically to run the event are applying to the Forest of Dean District Council to have a 9 month site for travellers at Hillersland. Believe it or not this may well be granted. We will keep you posted.

DC Alan BEARD, is being transferred away from the travellers and is going to L.I.O. on 7th March 1994. On 28th February 1994, DC Derek HOGG will be travelling from Alan, and he will be in attendance at the meeting on 3rd March 1994 - ensure you will all join us in wishing Alan well in his new post as

OCT-1993 13:53 NORTHERN NATS UNIT

0768217216

IN CONFIDENCE

ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS OF ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

NO. 1 (NORTH WEST) REGION CONFERENCE

P.O. Box 22 (S.West P.D.O.), Chester House, Boyer Street, Manchester, M16 0RE.

Telephone No. 061 854-2020  
Facsimile No. 061 854-2016

CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY

18 OCT 1993  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
ADMISIOPNAL SUPPORT SERVICE

13th October, 1993

*Robert Head*

*Mr. [unclear]  
for favour of reply my Act  
as at 18 Oct 1993*

*John [unclear]*

Dear Sir,

PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON THE USE OF TRAVELLERS AND RAVES

I enclose for your information a copy of correspondence which has been received from the Chairman of the ACPD General Purposes Public Order Sub-Committee.

In order that a Regional Response can be prepared, I should be obliged if you would let me have your views on this matter by Wednesday, 27th October, 1993.

Yours faithfully,

*A.J. Courtney*  
Assistant Chief Constable  
Regional Secretary.



Association of Chief Police Officers  
of England, Wales and Northern Ireland  
Public Order Sub-Committee

W.M. SPURGEON & SONS LTD  
CENTRAL REGISTRY  
P.O. 1/15/93 A.C.P.O.

From: Hon. Secretary,  
M. GEORGE ESP.,  
Greater Manchester Police Headquarters,  
PO Box 22 (S.West P.D.O.)  
Chester House,  
Boyer Street,  
Manchester M16 0RE  
Tel: 061 856 2014  
Fax: 061 856 2036

Our ref: XA4(3)/KB/NU

29th September 1993

Re: Rave Law to the Travellers + Gypsies  
of September 1993  
or September 1993  
or September 1993  
or September 1993  
or September 1993

USE OF HIGH COURT INJUNCTION TO CONTROL RAVE PARTY  
ent A.C.P.O. Sub-Committee meeting on Public Order, which took  
24th August, 1993. Mr Wood, Assistant Chief Constable of  
Constabulary, discussed a legislative tactic which had  
been used by that force to restrict and control a potential  
trance that had been planned in their force area. The tactic  
med individuals from organising any assembly throughout that

our information a copy of a  
the subject by the Derby.  
Ind this tactic.

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO 6  
FRIDAY 21ST JANUARY 1994

### NORTHANTS

The travellers who arrived from Bedfordshire, Cambridge, are still on the site at Spanhoe Airfield, approximately 50 vehicles. It is believed that travellers on sites in Norfolk near Kings Lynn, 20 vehicles, and Swaffham, 18 vehicles, will also be heading for Spanhoe. The travellers at Spanhoe appear to be making room for more vehicles.

in movement - direction of travel of NAT vehicles leaving a force area must be notified to this P.D.I unit and to the neighbouring force

### METROPOLITAN POLICE

Information has been received that some of the travellers are going to take to water. It is believed they intend to permanently moor a boat on the Thames. When more information, re: names of persons are known, we will circulate them.

Has anyone any ideas?

### THAMES VALLEY

Please see attached artist impression of a person seen in the area of Kirdlington, between Bicester and Kidlington, prior to an indecent assault on 30th December 1993. Person is described as being 1.75' tall, medium build, good looking, carrying a green rucksack.

Person is wanted for questioning by Thames Valley Police. Does anyone re: this person?

THIS DOCUMENT IS CONFIDENTIAL FOR POLICE EYES ONLY

These papers were originally marked  
**"FOR POLICE EYES ONLY"**

They are internal memos and intelligence reports from "OPERATION SNAPSHOT". Their database now contains over one million names. Most of who have committed no offences!!

This press coverage explains the significance of the 'SHAPSHOT' reports opposite. They demonstrate that our liberty is severely under threat and that we ALL need to be concerned.

## Police log travellers for crackdown

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

POLICE have launched an intelligence drive against New Age travellers and organisers of rave parties, according to reports obtained by the Guardian. They are aiming to log about 8,000 travellers on computer, with details of their names, addresses and associates. Some forces have also decided that "raves will not happen" illegal or otherwise.

Civil liberties lawyers and representatives of travellers and rave party organisations yesterday condemned what they say is so many police resources at a time of their scarcity. They accused the police of implementing the Criminal Justice Bill — which introduces measures to control travellers and raves — before it has been debated in Parliament.

Information bulletins from the Southern Intelligence Unit, based in Devizes, Wiltshire, copies of which have been seen by the Guardian, indicate that the police are expecting many free festivals and raves throughout Britain this year. Any movement of New Age travellers (NATs) now has to be

Austin  
NOT WHILE I'M ON DUTY, SIR.



notes Spiral Tribe's plans for parties and asks: "Does this mean they are going to be more organised this year?" If so, we will have to deal with them."

Some forces indicate that they oppose all rave parties, licensed or not. Surrey constabulary's policy is "raves will not happen". Illegally or otherwise. Another force suggests using the fire services to ask for ban.

The intelligence unit has been setting up a database of "weekenders" could be "weeded out" from others in computer records.

The unit is one of two that have been monitoring travellers since last year — the other is in Cumbria. It has carried out operations against travellers to find out how many travellers were in the country and where they had settled. There are plans to extend this.

Last night the general secretary of the civil rights organisation Liberty, Andrew Puddicombe, said he had received information on computers about individuals who have not committed offences and on the number of cases of lifestyle infringements on their right to privacy and freedom of expression."

Danny Staunton of the Advance Party, which represents

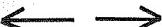
rave organisers, said: "Give us some sort of threat and we will be delighted to consider it."

A spokeswoman for Wiltshire police said the arrival of a new intelligence unit had made it unable to comment on the unit.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has proposed changes to the Criminal Justice Bill to create offences of aggravated trespass. Police are to be given additional powers which he believes may be used in rave and festivals and arrestive people who refuse to disperse.

Tracking by computer, page 4.

The Guardian  
25th Feb '94



## Police watch on travellers to go before European Court

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

POLICE monitoring of New Age travellers is to be challenged at the European Court of Human Rights in a privacy test case brought by the civil rights organisation Liberty.

The action follows a Guardian report on a police drive involving the Southern Intelligence Unit based at Devizes, Wiltshire, to monitor the movements and identities of travellers and ravers.

John Wadham, the legal officer of Liberty, said last night that he believed the targeting of a group which had not necessarily committed any offence breached article eight of the European Convention on Human Rights which provided a right to privacy.

"Targeting the whole of the travelling community goes well beyond the limitations of article eight," said Mr Wadham. "Just because someone is a New Age traveller doesn't mean that they are involved in crime."

A spokeswoman for Wiltshire police said yesterday that they had no knowledge of the Liberty action. There had been no contact with the group.

The spokeswoman said it had been agreed that Wiltshire would act as an intelligence-gathering centre after the Castlemorton free festival last year which led to allegations of major public disorder.

Hundreds of police forces dealt with illegal gatherings in their areas was up to them, the spokeswoman added.

## Police track travellers by computer

Duncan Campbell on the huge resources used to thwart New Agers and ravers

BULLETINS from the Southern Intelligence Unit contain information on New Age travellers and ravers for southern, West Country and Welsh police forces. It includes names and vehicle registration numbers being monitored.

Publications believed to be responsible for the information are also analysed to work out what parties are planned.

What emerges from the bulletins, says one document dated February 3, is that considerable intelligence resources and computer time is being channelled into tracking down New Age travellers' movements. However, some forces clearly believe they have few problems, but are obliged to co-operate in the intelligence-gathering operation.

Among information about New Age travellers and ravers noted by the unit, and being passed between forces, are the following:

• Spiral Tribe, one of the best-known travel organiser, are targeted for monitoring, with a new Musical Express article on their movements being cited in the bulletin; and "The Advance Party" rave parties and festivals for the "dispossessed", and ask: "Does this mean they are going to be more organised than ever? So, we will have to be alert!"

(The Advance Party is a recently-formed group, campaigning for the rights of "week-enders" could be "weeded out" from others for the purposes of the computer.)

• Dance for Life, a London-based firm, has "done a deal" with the Ministry of Defence to allow 21,000 people to attend all-night raves at the disused former US airfield base at Greenham Common, Berkshire, on May 28 and August 27.

The plans have been submitted

to take water. It is believed they intend to permanently moor a boat on the Thames."

• Gloucestershire police report efforts to remove trucks from a site near Stour on Stour. A local constable says the bulletins "have previously been used on occasions and been chased off".

While much of the information seems minor, minutes of a recent meeting suggest that "any information about NATs or Rave scene should be forwarded immediately".

Some forces clearly have a more relaxed attitude than others. West Midlands are reported saying they had no problems with travellers or ravers.

Thames Valley police, while noting a vehicle during last month's dance festival, which sought to site all travellers with them, say there is no real problem with them. They also have a more relaxed attitude to raves, saying they are allowed if they meet legal criteria.

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The plans have been submitted

PC Malcolm Keene.  
Wiltshire Police

currently stationed at Wiltshire Police Headquarters, Devizes with the SOUTHERN INTELLIGENCE UNIT of Operation Snapshot

The Guardian  
1st March '94



# SQUATTING IS STILL LEGAL!!!

**Squatting is not a crime yet.  
If you have heard rumours  
saying it has been made  
one, they are wrong!**

The Public Order Act has made some changes affecting travellers occupying empty land, but they don't affect squatting a building. With few exceptions ('protected intended occupiers' and 'residential displaced occupiers'), if you get into an empty house or flat which nobody else is using, without doing any damage, you can make it your home. Until the Criminal Justice Act comes into force, you basically have the same rights as other householders: the right to privacy, rubbish collection, postal delivery, social security and essential services like water, and electricity. Many squats last only a short time, but if you choose your place carefully you may be able to stay a while.

**Here are a few quick hints:**

1. Find a place that doesn't look too smart and is owned by the council or by a housing association.
2. Get in quickly and quietly without doing any

damage.

3. Secure all the entrances and change the lock on the entrance you are using.
4. Check that the water, gas and electricity are on or can be turned on, sign on for gas and electric straight away or you could be accused of theft.
5. Make sure there's someone in all the time, especially during the day, at least until the owner or council officials come round.
6. If the police, owners or council officials come round don't open the door, but tell them through the letterbox that this is now your home and you are not going to leave until the owners get a possession order to evict you.

**If you are serious about wishing to squat, while you still can!! please contact:**

**SQUATTERS' ACTION FOR  
SECURE HOMES  
2 ST PAULS ROAD,  
ISLINGTON  
LONDON N1  
TEL:071-226-8936**

## **WHY NOT GET A COPY OF THE SQUATTERS HANDBOOK**



**SQUATTERS  
HANDBOOK**

9th edition

60p

Okay, so you've read the magazine. We now hope you're wondering what can be done to prevent the bill becoming law?

The first step in opposing this bill lies in the spreading and networking of information. YOU can start by passing this booklet around your friends and family. You might find it advantageous to copy this before it gets too tatty. In fact why not make some more copies! You could get together with some friends and start your own publication. (Exactly, of course, what we have done here!).

Help yourselves to anything you want from within these pages - it's yours! by sharing information we can keep each other clued up on the situation. We should be aiming to establish a national information network.

Why not write to your MP? Letter writing has been a surprisingly effective form of protest in the past. There is no reason why, in large enough numbers, that a letter writing campaign should not have an effect. Postcards are available at gigs, parties, and benefits connected with:

## **ALL SYSTEMS NO !!!**

For further information, regular news letters, and details of future protests/events, send an A5 self addressed stamped envelope to:

**The Right 2 Party  
Box CJB  
15 Goose Gate  
Nottingham.  
or Tel: 0602 534777  
Fax: 0602 534040**

# THE RIGHT TO PARTY...

SHALL I NICK HIM  
THE LAW SAYS  
SOMETHING ABOUT  
REPETITIVE BEATS!

